



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses*

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## **SBA DISASTER LOAN DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 21 SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS STILL HAVE TIME TO APPLY**

**Chicago** - The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) reminds small business owners in the counties of Clark, Cook, Crawford, Edgar, Edwards, Gallatin, Iroquois, Kankakee, Lawrence, Vermillion, Wabash, White and Will in the State of Illinois that the Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) are still available to small businesses that were economically impacted from the severe winter storms and flooding that occurred January 1 through February 11, 2005.

“These counties are eligible because they are contiguous to one or more primary counties in the State of Indiana. SBA recognizes that disasters don’t usually stop at the county or state lines. For that reason, counties adjacent to primary counties named in the declaration are included,” according to Frank Skaggs, Director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

“Small businesses that suffered economic injury losses from the severe winter storms and flooding and want to apply for a low-interest loan from the SBA are urged to do so before the deadline. The deadline to apply for these loans is October 21 and small businesses do not need to have physical damage to be eligible to apply for these loans,” Skaggs added.

Small businesses may apply for a loan up to \$1.5 million if they have suffered substantial economic injury in the aftermath of last year’s storms and flooding. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. These loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits. The interest rate on these loans is 4 percent, with a maximum term of 30 years. The SBA determines the amount of economic injury, the term of each loan and the payment amount, based on the financial circumstances of each borrower.

Interested business owners should contact SBA’s National Customer Service Center by calling 800-659-2955 or 800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired. Business loan applications can also be downloaded from the SBA’s website at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster). Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, National Processing and Disbursement Center – 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155. Completed loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than October 21, 2005.

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SBA – America’s disaster resource; helping rebuild homes, businesses and lives.

SBA Disaster Assistance-Field Operations Center, East-One Baltimore Place, Suite 300-Atlanta, GA 30308